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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing vascular tissue injury during reperfusion of an ischemic tissue in a subject which comprises contacting the vascular tissue within the ischemic tissue with a ~~compound~~ nucleic acid which inhibits expression of Early Growth Response Factor-1 (Egr-1) protein in the vascular tissue so as to reduce vascular tissue injury in the ischemic tissue during reperfusion.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ischemic tissue is in an organ to be transplanted into the subject.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the ischemic tissue is part of a lung, a heart, a kidney, a vein, an artery, a stomach, a colon, a liver, skin, an eye, a pancreas, a brain, a finger, a toe or a limb.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~compound is a~~ nucleic acid ~~which~~ comprises a polynucleotide

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sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence of Early Growth Response Factor-1 mRNA.

21. (Canceled)
22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject has suffered a stroke, or a myocardial infarction.
23. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the subject is undergoing angioplasty, cardiac surgery, vascular surgery, or organ transplantation.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the vascular surgery is coronary artery surgery.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the vascular injury comprises cell death, abnormal cell function, abnormal cell growth, or inability of a cell to maintain normal function.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~inhibitor is a nucleic acid consisting~~ consists essentially of the polynucleotide sequence 5'-CTTGCCGCTGCCAT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).
27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the ~~inhibitor~~ nucleic acid is contacted with the vascular tissue before, during, or after reperfusion of the ischemic tissue.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing ischemic damage to tissue being transplanted into a subject, which comprises contacting the cells of the tissue ~~with an inhibitor of~~ with a nucleic acid that inhibits Early Growth Response Factor-1 (Egr-1) ex vivo prior to the tissue's transplantation into the subject.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the ~~inhibitor is a~~ nucleic acid ~~which~~ comprises a polynucleotide sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence of Early Growth Response Factor-1-encoding mRNA.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the ~~inhibitor is a compound which~~ nucleic acid inhibits expression of the Early Growth Response Factor-1 Protein (Egr-1) in the cells of the tissue.
31. (Canceled)
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue is vascular tissue.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue is part of a lung, a heart, a kidney, a vein, an artery, a stomach, a colon, a liver, skin, an eye, a pancreas, a finger, a brain, a toe, or a limb.

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34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the tissue has been subjected to reduced or interrupted blood flow.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the ischemic damage to the tissue comprises cell death, abnormal cell function, abnormal cell growth, or an inability of the cell to maintain normal function.
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the ~~inhibitor is a nucleic acid consisting~~ consists essentially of the polynucleotide sequence 5'-CTTGCCGCTGCCAT-3' (SEQ. ID. NO: 1).